

"Jonathan Underwood of Boston, Mass., born 1685 at Watertown, Mass. Very little is on record regarding this man except 1. the mention of his father's will; 2. the record in Middlesex Deeds of the purchase of land 1713; and 3. certain records of the port of Boston dated 1740 relative to cases of small pox on board his ship.

"In the absence of records we cannot assert that Jonathan was married. It is probable, however, that he was, and being a mariner his family became scattered. The following Underwoods born in Massachusetts during the first thirty-five years of the eighteenth century, are not traceable to any other branch of the Underwood family and all originally, apparently, in Middlesex County are referred to Jonathan Underwood. Extended research convinced author they are sons of Jonathan:

1. Joshua b about 1713
2. Samuel b about 1719
3. Nehemiah b 1721
4. Timothy b about 1729
5. Jonas b about 1733

"The Woodstock (Conn.) Branch of the Underwood family-(p 167)-

"This branch was founded by Nehemiah Underwood who removed from Watertown, Mass., first to Sturbridge, Mass., and afterwards(1749) to Woodstock, Conn.

"Nehemiah Underwood of Woodstock, Conn., (son of Jonathan?) born 5 May, 1721, at Watertown, Mass., married at Woodstock, Conn., Feb. 5, 1743/4, Anna Marcy, daughter of James Marcy of Woodstock, Conn., and had two children at Sturbridge and eight at Woodstock. He was a prosperous farmer living at Woodstock, Conn., nearly all his life. He was probably born at Watertown, Mass., 1721, but by a singular coincidence both church and town records are a blank. Comparatively little is known of the general character of Nehemiah. He was strongly religious as evidenced by the injunctions in his will, but it is evidently true he shared the weaknesses of his time. He was Deacon of the Baptist Church and a very good man always so calm and never anything seemed to disturb him. He died at age of fifty-one. His youngest son, Samuel, was three years old at the time of his father's death. Samuel was brought up by his brother, Nehemiah(b Oct. 1746). It is said that Nehemiah Sr. was so unmoved in his way, if he was caught in a hard shower, he would not hasten at all but would just walk as if the sun shone. He died 20 Oct., 1772, at Woodstock and is buried in the old cemetery between West Woodstock and Woodstock Valley. There is a quaint old gravestone marking his grave. The epitaph reads:

'O Reader Run Your Race is Short,
My death and grave doth you exhort,
These few lines pray mark them well
For You Are Travelling to Heaven or Hell.'

"His widow died 4 July, 1776 - the date of the signing of the Declaration of Independence at Philadelphia.